

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the Abstract of the Disclosure with the following re-written

Abstract:

A magnetic field gradient coil includes upper and lower sections **(40, 42)** that define a coil bore **(44)** therebetween. The upper section **(40)** has an arcuate curvature (C_{upper}) transverse to a longitudinal direction and a length (L_{upper}) in the longitudinal direction that is smaller than a longitudinal length (L_{lower}) of the lower section **(42)**. Gradient coil windings **(70, 72, 74, 76, 102, 104, 112, 114)** impose one or more transverse magnetic field gradients on a static magnetic field generally oriented in the longitudinal direction. The ~~coil~~ windings are supported by ~~both~~ the upper and lower sections **(40, 42)** of the coils support. The ~~coil~~ windings supported by the upper section **(40)** are longitudinally limited in distribution to the longitudinal length (L_{upper}) of the upper section **(40)**, which is ~~shorter~~ shorter than its diameter. The ~~coil~~ windings supported by the lower section **(42)** are longitudinally distributed across substantially the longitudinal length (L_{lower}) of the lower section **(42)**.